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STAYING SHARP WHILE REFUELLING DURING LONG  
BREAK BETWEEN ROUNDS A CHALLENGE: COACH

PAGE 28

HALIFAX

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Thursday, March 29, 2012

News worth sharing.



**"I love the smell of  
testosterone  
in the morning."**

**Q104**

Inhale...

# 3 schools closing, 2 others spared

**Education.** Hundreds attend school board meeting with fate of five facilities up for debate

The Halifax Regional School Board voted to close three schools and save two others

at a packed meeting on Wednesday. In anticipation of a large audience, the school board met in Keating Hall at Dartmouth High School instead of the usual Burnside office. About 300 people attended the meeting. Going in, five schools faced closure: Central Spry-

field Elementary, Gertrude Parker Elementary, Prince Arthur Junior High, Sackville Centennial Elementary and South Woodside Elementary. The board voted to close Prince Arthur, with the condition that it be first replaced with a new P-9 school. That new school could start

construction next year. Sackville Centennial and Gertrude Parker will both close in June 2014. Central Spryfield was saved, to bursts of cheers from the audience. South Woodside was likewise spared, also to loud applause. "I feel good about the

decisions," board chairman Irvine Carvery said after the meeting. "I'm happy with the outcome." He left the possibility that Sackville Centennial and Gertrude Parker could yet stay open. "If we did a boundary review and it figured the best school to send kids to was

Gertrude Parker, then the board has the ability to rescind that decision," he said. Kimberley Pryde, who has a child in Grade 3 at Sackville Centennial said: "I was hoping we would stay open. Unfortunately, we didn't get that. However, we got a reprieve for two years." Pryde hopes the board will reverse the decision after a boundary review, but even if the school closes, she's happy to have a longer time to prepare students for the change.

The schools faced issues of inadequate facilities, declining enrolment and a lack of provincial funds. The board itself is facing about \$10 million in cuts in next week's provincial budget.

JON TATTRIE/FOR METRO



Parents and supporters of Central Spryfield Elementary School react with joy and relief after the Halifax Regional School Board voted to keep the facility open during a board meeting at Dartmouth High School on Wednesday night. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

## Going vs. staying

### Schools closing:

- Prince Arthur Junior High
- Sackville Centennial Elementary
- Gertrude Parker Elementary

### Schools safe:

- South Woodside Elementary
- Central Spryfield Elementary



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# 'No' on stadium shouldn't be a big surprise: Dexter

## Project shelved.

Proposal falls through due to lack of public and private funding



JENNIFER TAPLIN  
Metro in Halifax

Councillors shouldn't be surprised or be blaming the province for the collapse of the stadium proposal, Premier Darrell Dexter said Wednesday.

Since there was no funding coming from the provincial and federal governments, and corporate interest was low, Halifax regional council decided to shelve the stadium

project on Tuesday.

Several councillors expressed frustration with the lack of support from the province. Coun. Darren Fisher said if the province got on board, the feds and private business would have followed.

Even though Defence Minister Peter MacKay showed interest in the stadium, the federal government has said it would not support stadium funding in any city.

The province's reply to HRM was they didn't receive a business case fitting the requirement to apply for provincial funding.

This angered councillors, who said the province was sent the consultants' stadium analysis and every other relevant document.

"I think the province of Nova Scotia has let us down and I'm yet to know why," said Coun. Jim Smith on Tuesday.

But the municipality's business case didn't do enough to show a "concrete" benefit, Dexter said.



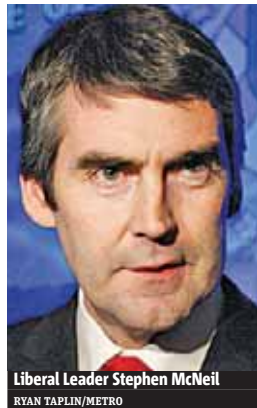
Premier Darrell Dexter is making no apologies for his government's stance on a proposed outdoor-stadium project or Halifax. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

## Money down the drain

# \$350K

What HRM has spent in the first two phases exploring the stadium project.

# Talk of election precedes throne speech



Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil  
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

The NDP government opens the spring session of the legislature Thursday with a throne speech that could herald the start of a campaign culminating in a provincial election as early as this fall.

Typically, throne speeches are vague documents laden with platitudes, but they can provide clues to a government's political strategy.

With Nova Scotia's finances improving and the economy growing, Premier Darrell Dexter sounds like he's ready for the hustings.

"We stand on the precipice of one of the most prosperous periods of our province's

history," he said Wednesday, drawing attention to the spinoffs resulting from the \$25-billion federal shipbuilding contract recently awarded to the Halifax Shipyard.

"All of the economic forecasts show that after 20 years of the worst economic performance in the country, we will soon start to climb up the ladder of GDP growth."

Speculation about an early election this fall ramped up last week when Finance Minister Graham Steele announced that his spring budget — to be tabled on Tuesday — will include a "modest but real" personal

## Distraction?

**"Some token tax cut — pennies a day given back — is really not going to make a lot of difference to Nova Scotians."**

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil

income tax cut.

Nova Scotians pay among the highest corporate and income taxes in Canada.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil says the tax cut is just a distraction. "They're trying to get Nova Scotians to forget about the cuts to education,

the cuts to health care, the increase in the HST — and trying to remake their image toward an election," he said.

"We're all getting ready for an election campaign. We know one is coming at some point, whether it's in the fall or the spring of next year."

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie says his party will continue to hammer away at the NDP's decision to raise taxes. "If (the throne speech) is aimed at taking us to the polls at some future date, I'm certainly prepared to debate what they've done to our taxes," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## On the web

## Disco lunch — hold the mayo

Some workers in Sweden have found an offbeat way to spend their lunch hour. Actually, on-beat is more like it. Disco lights, sweaty bodies and pulsating beats are all on the menu during the lunchtime dance parties that started in Stockholm and are spreading across Europe. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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NEWS

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## Death at sea

**Feds probe allegations of human smuggling**

Federal law-enforcement agencies have yet to determine if a sailboat that ran into trouble off Nova Scotia — leaving one man dead and three sailors lost at sea — was involved in human smuggling, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

But Kenney said some of those agencies believe the boat might have been trying to smuggle people into Canada based on its actions.

"We don't have final information but it certainly was some form of irregular travel," he told reporters. "We weren't aware that these people were coming to Canada, this vessel wasn't registered so there was something irregular going on. It certainly is a matter of concern."

Five people were rescued from the SV Tabasco 2 about 150 kilometres south of Cape Sable Island after the yacht had a mechanical failure on Monday night.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said Tuesday the tragedy is being treated as a possible case of human smuggling that went wrong, and that a number of survivors from the yacht have made refugee claims.

The RCMP says officers with the Canada Border Services Agency have begun an examination of the two men in Yarmouth and will examine the three other sailors from the tanker in Saint John.

All nine people on board the Tabasco 2 were described as foreign nationals. Reports indicate they were from Russia, Ukraine and Georgia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Judge to rule on bail in alleged espionage case

**Ruling Friday.** Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle of Bedford has been in jail since his arrest

A Nova Scotia judge will decide Friday whether to grant bail to a navy intelligence officer accused in a rare case of espionage.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle appeared in Halifax provincial court Wednesday, charged with communicating information that could harm national interests.

He has been in custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Burnside since his arrest in January.

Mike Taylor, Delisle's lawyer, said outside court that his client poses no threat to public safety and should be released on bail.

"There's good reason to believe he's not going to be a flight risk, he's not a danger to commit further offences and there's simply not a danger ... that information's going to be passed," he said.

"I believe he should be granted bail under the circumstances."

Judge Barbara Beach granted the defence's request earlier in the day for a sweeping publication ban covering evidence presented at Delisle's bail hearing.

The prosecutor did not comment after the hearing.

Delisle was charged under a section of the Security of Information Act that was passed by the House of Commons after the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

The RCMP say the charges against Delisle mark the first time that anyone has been charged under that section of the act.

Taylor said the bail ruling will be unique because there are no precedents since the law has never been tested in an intelligence case like this.

"It's a difficult decision to make simply because there's no precedent to go by," he said outside court. "There's nothing that's taken place previously to decide what considerations are the most important."

Court documents say one of the alleged offences happened between July 6, 2007, and Jan. 13, 2012, while the other offence is alleged to have happened between Jan. 10 and Jan. 13 of this year.

The man also faces a breach-of-trust charge under the Criminal Code that is alleged to have happened between July 6, 2007, and Jan. 13, 2012.

All the offences are alleged to have happened in or near Halifax, Ottawa and Kingston, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Delisle arrives at provincial court in Halifax on Wednesday. The Canadian naval officer, accused of passing secrets to a foreign entity, was attending a bail hearing. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**In the courtroom**

- Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle shielded his face under a blue hooded sweatshirt as he passed by a string of TV cameras and entered court in Halifax on Wednesday.

sat between three sheriffs and appeared attentive to the proceedings.

- Throughout the day, he

- At one point during testimony, he broke down and could be seen wiping away tears.

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**Trafficking charges**

## Woman tried to smuggle drugs into jail: Police

A woman was arrested after police say she tried to sneak drugs into the Burnside jail this week.

The 28-year-old was arrested at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility on Tuesday afternoon.

Police say the woman hid the drugs in clothing

she was delivering to jail. Const. Brian Palmetier said it appeared the woman was making a personal visit to an inmate.

"We believe the clothing was intended for someone in the facility," he said.

Officers arrested the woman and seized a small amount of marijuana, hydromorphone and ecstasy.

The Shad Bay woman faces charges of drug trafficking. She's due in Dartmouth Provincial Court on May 16. **JON TATTIE/FOR METRO**



The Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, a.k.a. the Burnside jail. **RYAN TAPLIN/METRO**

**Liberal candidate**

## Ince to run again in Cole Harbour

The Liberals have again nominated Tony Ince to run for the party in the riding of Cole Harbour. The community leader was voted the party's provincial candidate on Tuesday. Ince ran in the riding held by Premier Darrell Dexter in 2009 and finished second, with 18 per cent support. **METRO**

**Fastest-rising in Canada**

## Halifax home resale prices nudged upward in January: Study

Halifax house prices were the fastest-rising in the country in the last period, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

Seven of the 11 metropolitan markets saw increases in home resale prices in January compared

to December, led by the Halifax area at 0.7 per cent, followed closely by the Toronto market at 0.6 per cent. Victoria rose 0.4 per cent.

The data from the Teranet-National Bank Composite House Price Index for single-family homes showed a slight overall rise of 0.1 per cent in January over December. It was, however, a 6.5 per cent rise compared to the previous year.

The index does not provide actual prices. **METRO**

# More jails will not reduce crime: Landry

**Crime Prevention Symposium.** Justice minister cites need to get to the root of why HRM had a record-breaking homicide total in 2011

**DREW CASFORD**  
halifax@metronews.ca

Building more jails is not the answer to reducing the province's crime rate, Nova Scotia's minister of justice says.

Ross Landry told the Crime Prevention Symposium in Halifax on Wednesday that the overall crime rate in Nova Scotia might be declining but admitted the homicide and domestic violence rates are alarming and require a proactive approach.

"While we look for solutions, we know the answer to safer communities does not rest with more jails, more courthouses and more police officers," he told a crowd at the Halifax Marri-

**Quotable**



"Our job as leaders in crime prevention is to look beyond the

crime to the person who committed it."

Justice Minister Ross Landry.

ott Harbourfront Hotel. "We cannot arrest into a crime-free society."

Landry outlined several measures he said the province will implement over the next year to reduce or maintain crime rates, focusing on community partnership and restorative approaches.

He highlighted the importance of integration of offenders into the community and said it starts with a co-ordinated case plan in custody and continues with a well-structured transition back into the community.

"If we lower the chance of reoffending, we enhance community safety," he said.



Halifax police attend the scene of a shooting in North Preston in December. Justice Minister Ross Landry has called for a community-based, rehabilitative approach to fighting crime. **RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE**

Government and community partners have also developed a pilot called Housing First that supports reintegration through affordable housing.

Landry also noted the importance of creating opportunities for at-risk youth with programs such as the Lighthouse Program, which helps young people to connect to their community. He said a critical element in any prevention framework is the ability to effectively enforce the laws and get to the root of crime.

"We need to find new ways of looking at crime," he said, "and addressing the things that are causing people to get involved with criminal activity."

Landry admitted his approach to crime differs from that of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government's new C-10 legislation.

"I have a lot of difficulty (with) some of the crimes that people are being locked up for," Landry said, "when, in fact, we have to find ways to get them back into society, contributing."

**Restorative justice**

## Anti-crime project aims at students

Dalhousie University and Halifax Regional Police are launching a new restorative justice pilot project aimed at helping students in trouble.

The project will give students the chance to see how their actions affect those in

the community, a provincial news release says.

It will be "an alternative for students who come in conflict with the law, and for student-conduct issues on campus and in the surrounding community," Justice Minister Ross Landry said Wednesday.

The project is said to be the first of its kind in Canada for university students.

**DREW CASFORD/FOR METRO**

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## Spending scandal. Sentencing for former Liberal delayed – again

The sentencing hearing for a former Liberal member of the Nova Scotia legislature who pleaded guilty to charges in the province's spending scandal has been rescheduled for a second time.

Dave Wilson was scheduled to be sentenced on Friday in Sydney provincial court, but that hearing has now been set for April 19.

A news release from the public prosecution service says as in a previous adjournment on Jan. 25, the Crown has requested more time to evaluate evidence the defence wants to present in court.

Wilson once represented the rural riding of Glace Bay.



Dave Wilson THE CANADIAN PRESS

He pleaded guilty in September to uttering forged documents, fraud over \$5,000 and breach of trust.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Environment

## Utility company makes power play

Nova Scotia Power says it will temporarily close two of its four units at the Lingon power generating station in Cape Breton later this year.

The private utility

company says the move is intended to reduce the use of coal, though it was unable to say how it would cut back on the province's greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the units will be shut down temporarily this spring, while another would be closed at some point later in the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Unions protest budget cuts to school boards

**Outrage.** Premier says there are fewer kids in the system, but school support workers argue cuts will impact quality of education



JENNIFER TAPLIN  
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

"My God, give us some money. It's just crazy," burst out Sharon Gallant, a frustrated former school cafeteria manager at a press conference on Wednesday.

Three unions representing 6,300 school support workers held the joint news conference at Province House

to voice their outrage at the province's direction to cut at least 1.3 per cent from their budgets.

Gallant, who sat in the audience, stood up to say the province wants kids to eat healthier, but is not funding them properly.

Una Rhodenhizer, a bus driver in the South Shore, also stood up to express her concern that a lack of teacher assistants for special-needs children would cause big problems for her.

Joan Jessome, president of the Nova Scotia General Employees Union, said it's hard to determine how many job losses the budget cuts will mean — especially with the other costs involved — but it will mean an impact to quality of education.

"In a school system, you take out any cog in that wheel and it's going to fall," she said.

She said parents need to wake up and get involved by contacting MLAs and the education department.

Most school boards forbid staff to speak to parents directly, she added.



Karen Casey, Liberal education critic; Loretta Melanson of SEIU Local 2; and Joan Jessome, president of NSGEU, speak to the media during a press conference at Province House on Wednesday. JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

The unions aren't facing reality in that there are far fewer students in the school system, said Premier Darrell Dexter in an interview.

"Reality is, this year we'll make the largest contribution in history to student edu-

cation on a per-child basis," he said. "Funding for education is going up, not down, but for obvious reasons they don't want to accept that."

There's no question there are fewer kids in the system, Jessome said, but kids today have more needs.

### The real number

# 8%

The cuts faced by school boards when wage increases and inflation are considered, said Wilfrid Crowdis of Nova Scotia School Board Council of Unions.



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Inspector John Ryan, RCMP federal policing support officer in Sydney; Leroy Denny, chief of Eskasoni First Nation; and Staff Sgt. Dan Morrow of the RCMP Eskasoni detachment lead a press conference in Eskasoni on Wednesday to announce the results of a two-month drug investigation. CAPE BRETON POST

# Pill pushers busted in raids across Cape Breton

**Investigation.** Close to a dozen people facing charges, with more arrests coming

Co-ordinated raids across Cape Breton early Wednesday led to the seizure of drugs and charges against 11 people.

Led by the RCMP, the raids targeted prescription drugs, particularly those destined for First Nations communities.

"It's not isolated to Eskasoni, this is nationwide, but it has a significant impact in Eskasoni because we find that these communities are interconnected within the

local drug trade," said RCMP Staff Sgt. Dan Morrow, detachment commander in the community.

"Suppliers have been charged, arrested, so it will have long-term effects for Eskasoni."

The raids, which were the result of a two-month investigation, happened in Eskasoni, Chapel Island, Wagmatcook, West Bay, Port Hawkesbury and in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Cape Breton Regional Police assisted the RCMP federal drug detachment and the Eskasoni detachment.

The RCMP, along with Eskasoni Chief Leroy Denny, credited community support for the arrests.

## Quantity seized

# 600

The amount of pills seized during Wednesday's raids, along with undisclosed quantities of cocaine and marijuana. The street value of the drugs was not immediately known.

"Children and youth are sick of the drug activity going on," said Denny.

"We just need to continue pushing this forward. It's going to motivate our people to continue to fight the war on drugs, and I'm hoping that as the largest Mi'kmaq community ... other First Nations and other communities will do the same thing

and take the lead role."

In Eskasoni, Denny said an anti-drug strategy has been spread through social media and the community newsletter.

"We find that people are now more willing to call us with the intelligence that is so vital for these investigations," said Morrow. "Without the key intelligence a lot of the things we start would never get off the ground."

A further five arrests are expected, police say.

CAPE BRETON POST

Online

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metronews.ca



## RCMP investigation. Three people die in two separate collisions

Two people have died and two others are in hospital with serious injuries after a three-vehicle collision Wednesday on Highway 105 in North Sydney.

Police say the accident happened at about 9:45 a.m.

RCMP say traffic through the area was being re-routed to St. James Road and Millville Highway for about six hours.

Also this week, an 89-year-old man died after a tractor accident east of Amherst.

The RCMP say the Cumberland County man was driving a tractor that rolled over into a ditch in a driveway in Trueman-

## Tragic death

# 89

An 89-year-old man died after his tractor rolled over into a ditch in a driveway in Truemanville on Tuesday. He has not been identified.

village on Tuesday afternoon.

Police say he died at the scene.

Investigators are not releasing his identity until the man's relatives have been notified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Court. Man convicted of racial hatred given one day in jail for probation breach

A man who was convicted of inciting racial hatred for burning a cross on the lawn of a home shared by a mixed-race Poplar Grove couple was back in Windsor provincial court Tuesday.

Justin Rehberg, 21, was convicted of breaching probation. The court heard police had responded to a quarrel in Windsor earlier this month.

Crown attorney Bill Ferguson said RCMP responded to a complaint of two men fighting in the street on March 7, and found an impaired Rehberg at the scene.



Justin Rehberg RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Rehberg was jailed for two months for the February 2010 cross-burning incident. He is not allowed to possess or consume alcohol on probation. Rehberg was sentenced to one day in jail, which was considered already served. THE HANTS JOURNAL

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## Canada-U.S. Omar Khadr poised to be transferred north of border in May

A "frustrated" Omar Khadr could be back in Canada by the end of May, with both Ottawa and Washington poised to approve his transfer from Guantanamo Bay, where the convicted war criminal has been held for almost a decade, The Canadian Press has learned.

A source familiar with the file said U.S. Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta was expected to sign off on the transfer within a week.

"It's on his desk, it's ready," the source said Wednesday. "The U.S. has no concerns about (Khadr)."

Khadr has been caught up in a bureaucratic "Catch-22" since becoming eligible to leave the American prison on Cuba last October under terms of a plea agreement struck a year earlier.

The Toronto-born Khadr, 25, pleaded guilty before a much-maligned U.S. military commission to five war crimes he committed as a 15-year-old in Afghanistan in July 2002.

In exchange, the Canadian citizen was given an eight-year sentence, with one year to be served in Guantanamo Bay and the remainder in Canada.



Courtroom sketch of Omar Khadr.  
JANET HAMLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has been in no hurry to approve the transfer request, which Khadr's lawyers submitted to both governments a year ago.

Instead, the source said, Ottawa has been scrutinizing the application far more closely than required, looking at issues such as his parole eligibility, which would essentially be almost immediate.

"I think they have stalled the proceedings — the U.S. would have sent him home a lot earlier if things had been worked out in Canada," the source said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Health officers slam drug policy

**Criticism.** Top experts denounce federal strategy, call for an evidence-based approach

A number of leading figures in Canadian public health are criticizing the federal government's approach to drug policy, suggesting political ideology is trumping science.

In a two-pronged attack, the chief medical officers of health for British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia published a commentary in the journal *Open Medicine* that calls on the government to rethink strategies like minimum mandatory sentences for minor drug-related offences.

"Basically what we're saying is that we don't think that the model we're using is particularly effective," said Dr. Perry Kendall, British Columbia's chief medical officer of health.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's chief public health officer Dr. David Butler-Jones, left, speaks to B.C. provincial health officer Dr. Perry Kendall in 2009. Kendall calls for a new approach to federal drug policy. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Congrats! That'll be a million dollars

Australia's foreign affairs minister is looking into the case of a Sydney couple stuck with a million-dollar hospital bill after their daughter was born in Vancouver last August.

John Kan and Rachel Evans had taken out extra insurance for Evans' pregnancy without realizing the policy would not cover the birth or the baby.

They were about to return to Australia after their B.C. vacation when Evans went into premature labour at the airport.

Piper Kan stayed in the neo-natal ward of the B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre for three months and the bill ended up being about \$1 million.

Evans said she is grateful for any help the government might be able to provide.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Workers conduct radiation dose measurement in the Unit 2 reactor's primary containment vessel at the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, northeastern Japan. Unit 2 still had fatally high radiation levels and much less water to cool it than officials had estimated. TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Fukushima tests high for radiation levels

**Plant Examinations.** Condition of other two reactors, which could be in far worse condition, unknown.

One of Japan's crippled nuclear reactors still has fatally high radiation levels and hardly any water to cool its fuel, according to an internal examination that reinforces doubts about the plant's stability.

A tool equipped with a tiny video camera, a thermometer, a dosimeter and a water gauge was used to assess damage inside the No. 2 reactor's con-

tainment chamber Tuesday for the second time since the tsunami swept into the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant a year ago.

The data collected showed the damage from the disaster is so severe, the plant operator will have to develop special equipment and technology to tolerate the harsh environment and decommission the plant, a process expected to last decades. The other two reactors that had meltdowns could be in even worse shape. The No. 2 reactor is the only one plant workers have been able to closely examine so far.

Tuesday's examination with an industrial endoscope detected radiation levels up to 10 times the fatal dose in-

side the chamber. Plant officials previously said more than half of the melted fuel has breached the core and dropped to the floor of the primary containment vessel.

Particles from melted fuel have probably sent radiation levels up to a dangerously high 70 sieverts per hour inside the container, said Junichi Matsumoto, spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. The figure far exceeds the highest level previously detected, 10 sieverts per hour, which was detected last year.

"It's extremely high," he said, adding that an endoscope would last only 14 hours in those conditions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Warming. Severe weather ahead

Global warming is leading to such severe storms, droughts and heat waves that countries should prepare for an unprecedented onslaught of deadly and costly weather disasters, an international panel of climate scientists says in a report issued Wednesday.

The greatest danger from extreme weather is in highly populated, poor regions of the world, the report warns, but no corner of the globe is immune. The document by a Nobel Prize-winning panel of scientists forecasts stronger tropical cyclones and more heat waves, deluges and droughts.

The report blames the scale of recent and future disasters on a combination of man-made



Neighbours look over the wreckage of a mobile home that was struck by a tornado Friday, March 23, 2012 near Opdyke in Jefferson County, Ill.

ALAN ROGERS/THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

climate change, population shifts and poverty.

In the past, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change focused on the rise of

temperatures and oceans. This report is the first to look at the less common but far more noticeable extreme weather changes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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China 1 <sup>9</sup>	Lebanon 7 <sup>9</sup>	Sri Lanka 9 <sup>9</sup>
Colombia 3 <sup>9</sup>	Mexico 1 <sup>9</sup>	Trinidad 4 <sup>9</sup>
Cuba 89 <sup>9</sup>	Pakistan 5 <sup>9</sup>	U.A.E 14 <sup>9</sup>
El Salvador 9 <sup>9</sup>	Philippines 11 <sup>9</sup>	Ukraine 7 <sup>9</sup>
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# Crash leaves two in critical condition

**Accident.** Brinks tractor-trailer collides with rock face in northern Ontario, spilling millions of loonies and toonies

Millions of dollars in coins and a shipment of candy were scattered across an Ontario highway Wednesday following the crash of a Brinks tractor-trailer that seriously injured two people.

Both of the men who were in the Brinks truck were taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries, police said.

The crash happened around 4 a.m. on Highway 11, north of Kirkland Lake in northeastern Ontario, when the truck crossed the centre line and collided with a rock face, said Ontario Provincial Police Const. Marc Depatie.

The crash also caused a number of chain-reaction collisions, but the injuries were minor, he



Police investigate the scene after a crash in northern Ontario on Wednesday. Millions of dollars in coins and a shipment of candy were scattered across the highway following the crash of a Brinks tractor-trailer that seriously injured two people. CONTRIBUTED/ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

said. One of the trucks involved in the resulting crashes was carrying candy, he said.

That candy, along with \$3 to \$5 million worth of loonies and toonies were strewn

on the road and in the surrounding bush. The highway was closed by police, who essentially stood guard until the money could be removed.

"A private contractor will

be using magnets and other mechanisms to recover the dispersed load," but clearing up the wreckage remains the top priority, Depatie said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Labour disputes. Canada Post worker accuses Raitt of using bullying tactics

The recent tensions between Air Canada workers and Lisa Raitt reminded Jim Gallant of the time he gave the federal labour minister a piece of his mind in public.

The veteran Canada Post worker said he got a pair of RCMP officers knocking on his office door — a response he equated to the sudden suspensions that triggered last week's early-morning wildcat strike at Canada's largest airline. Three Air Canada workers were suspended recently for heckling Raitt at Toronto's Pearson airport. Those suspensions triggered a wildcat strike by fellow workers angered by the Conservative government bringing

in back-to-work legislation and sending their contract dispute with the airline to arbitration.

Gallant, a regional grievance officer with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers with 23 years at Canada Post, was in Toronto attending a hockey game at the Air Canada Centre last October when he said he accused Raitt to her face of lying to the Senate and the House of Commons when explaining why postal employees had to be ordered back to work.

Officials routinely report unusual incidents that take place on off-hours, said security consultant Chris Mathers, a former RCMP officer himself.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt on March 12. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Pilot charged in midair incident

**JetBlue airline.**  
Captain's bizarre  
behaviour forces  
passengers to act

A JetBlue Airways captain who sprinted through the cabin of a Las Vegas-bound flight screaming about terrorists, Jesus and Sept. 11 was charged Wednesday with interfering with a flight crew, federal authorities said.

Capt. Clayton Osbon told his co-pilot that "things just don't matter" shortly after JetBlue Flight 191 from New York departed Tuesday, according to an affidavit. Osbon, who was ultimately tackled by passengers while the plane made an emergency landing in Texas, told his co-pilot that "we're not going to Vegas" and began what was described as a sermon, the court documents said.

"The (first officer) became really worried when Osbon said, 'We need to take a leap of faith,'" according to the sworn affidavit given by an FBI agent. "Osbon started trying to correlate completely unrelated numbers like different radio frequencies, and he talked about sins in Las Vegas."

Osbon left the cockpit soon after and tensions on the plane began to escalate, according to witness accounts compiled by investigators. Osbon, described by neighbours in Georgia as tall and muscular, "aggressively" grabbed the hands of a flight attendant who confronted him and later sprinted down the cabin while being chased.

From inside the locked cockpit, which Osbon tried to re-enter by banging on the door, the first officer gave an order through the intercom to restrain Osbon, according to the affidavit. Passengers wrestled Osbon to the ground, and one female flight attendant's ribs were bruised during the struggle. No one on board was seriously hurt.

"Nobody knew what to do because he is the captain of the plane," said passenger Don Davis. "You're not just going to jump up and attack the captain."

But four men did just that, using seatbelt extenders and zip-tie handcuffs to restrain and pin Osbon to the floor for more than 20 minutes while the co-pilot and an off-duty pilot who was aboard landed the plane in Amarillo, Texas.

The charges against Osbon, 49, were filed in Texas. He

## Breakdown

**"Clearly, he had an emotional or mental type of breakdown."**

**Tony Antolino**  
A security executive who tackled the pilot

was being held Wednesday at Northwest Texas Healthcare System in Amarillo and remains under a medical evaluation.

Under U.S. federal law, a conviction for interference with a flight crew or attendants can bring up to 20 years in prison. The offence is defined as assaulting or intimidating the crew, interfering with its duties or diminishing its ability to operate the plane.

JetBlue spokeswoman Allison Steinberg said earlier Wednesday that Osbon had been suspended pending a review of the flight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Tony Antolino of Rye, N.Y., was one of four passengers who tackled and restrained the captain.** JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two of Canada's younger federal politicians are grabbing attention and raising money for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation by trading their metaphorical political jabs for literal ones in a boxing ring this weekend. But with young people staying away from voting in droves, Metro decided to ask them and the NDP's youngest leadership contender if they have any ideas about how to hold the public's attention and attract more youth to politics.

METRO OTTAWA

# Young politicians duke it out for youth engagement



Conservative Sen. Patrick Brazeau flexes his muscles outside Parliament in Ottawa. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

**Young Tory senator fights in ring, on Twitter.** There should be more young people in the Senate: Patrick Brazeau

Patrick Brazeau doesn't look like your archetypal senator — especially in his Twitter profile pic, showing off his generous, tattooed muscles.

Brazeau, 37, hails from Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Quebec, served in the Canadian Forces and was chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples before he was the youngest Canadian ever named to the Senate in 2008.

Sober second thought doesn't necessarily improve with age, he said.

"Many people who've had long careers and are appointed to the Senate, obviously they have many things to

contribute, but equally important is to have young voices in the Senate," he said.

He'll be fighting for the Conservatives when he boxes Justin Trudeau at an Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation fundraiser on Saturday — something his older colleagues in the Senate aren't as able to do.

He often takes ideological fights with "leftists" to Twitter, engaging in flame wars with citizens, politicians and journalists.

"I'm certainly not a rebel, but I'm certainly not afraid of answering back in a factual manner as much as I can," he said.

Brazeau said he also uses social media to encourage young people — especially aboriginal youth — to get involved in politics.

"It's doubly hard to engage aboriginal youth," he said. "Aboriginal youth

## Credibility

"I would hope that any youth would listen to any politician who would have a good and positive message, but I think that the fact that I am a little bit younger than most of my colleagues, it lends a little bit of credibility."

Patrick Brazeau  
On engaging youth

feel as though they are selling out to mainstream Canada and they may feel assimilated.

"I think it's the exact opposite effect. The more people who become engaged, it can only mean a better life for them."

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

**Young Liberal MP fights to be more than a younger version of his dad.** Developing own expertise, own sense of identity is important whatever field you go into: Justin Trudeau

Justin Trudeau certainly isn't the youngest MP kicking around the House of Commons these days. But no matter what his age, he will always be perceived as a younger version of his dad.

Except that's the comparison Trudeau is trying to distance himself from, looking to make his own mark in his third year as Liberal MP for Papineau.

"I bring my own aspects to politics on my own merits and I think that's very, very important for any young person going into any field — that they be able to develop their own expertise, their own sense of identity," said Trudeau, 40.

So what makes him stand out from his slightly older peers on Parliament Hill?

For one, he said voting isn't "cool" and doesn't want to make it appear cool either.

"You don't make voting cool, that's where everyone has failed," he said. "What you have to do is make voting important to young people. Make them understand that their voices matter."

Trudeau — who has more than 120,000 Twitter followers — said he can

## Mobilization

**"If youth voted to 80 per cent turnout the way seniors vote to 80 per cent turnout, we'd never have another conversation about tuition fees in Parliament ever."**

Justin Trudeau  
On the youth vote

do that by engaging youth through social media.

A Twitter campaign is just the start, though. He said he wants to mobilize youth in the streets to get them more interested in politics.

JOE LOFARO/METRO



Justin Trudeau outside Parliament in Ottawa. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO



Niki Ashton. CONTRIBUTED

**Young NDP MP made a bid for party leadership.** Being at the forefront encourages others to get involved: Niki Ashton

Niki Ashton isn't part of any literal boxing matches, but she stepped up as a contender in her party's biggest title bout — the race to replace Jack Layton.

Ashton sometimes — but not always — got more attention for her youth than her ideas in her NDP leadership bid.

"Some people looked at my age and thought it was a plus, and some people looked beyond my age," said the 29-year-old MP for Churchill, adding she's happy

to be a standard-bearer for young Canadians.

"We've been told that we're the generation that may live less well-off than our parents, and I find that statement unacceptable," Ashton said. "I mean, we've got tremendous wealth, tremendous opportunity in our country and there's no reason we should be less well-off."

Ashton acknowledged young people are less likely to vote, but they're easier to reach through social media and issue-based campaigns. Seeing more people their age in politics, she said, also helps.

"More young people get involved when they see young people at the forefront and speaking out on the issues that matter," she said. "Our party, I'm proud to

## Visibility

**"Jack Layton inspired many people, many young people particularly, to come out and be part of the process, and that's something that I very much want to continue."**

Niki Ashton  
On engaging youth

say, is one where if you turn on the TV and watch Parliament, we actually look like Canada. The same cannot be said for other parties that have very little representation from young people or women or the diversity of Canada." STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

Be sure to go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) for coverage of the Trudeau-Brazeau boxing match happening at the Hampton Inn in Ottawa at 8:30 p.m. Metro columnist Steve Collins will also be live tweeting the fight @metrottawa.



# Meet Canada's youngest MPs



SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

#1



Pierre-Luc Dusseault

NDP—Sherbrooke

Age 20

#2



Charmaine Borg

NDP—Terrebonne-Blainville

Age 21

#3



Mylène Freeman

NDP—Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel

Age 22

#4



Michelle Rempel

Con.—Calgary Centre-North

Age 31

#5



Pierre Poilievre

Con.—Nepean-Carleton

Age 32

#6



Andrew Scheer

Con.—Regina-Qu'Appelle

Age 32

#7



Scott Andrews

Lib.—Avalon

Age 37

#8



Jean-François Fortin

BQ.—Haute-Gaspésie-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia

Age 38

#9



Justin Trudeau

Lib.—Papineau

Age 40

#10



Scott Simms

Lib.—Bonaville-Gander-Grand Falls-Windsor

Age 42

## Everything old was once young too —including Parliament's Rat Pack

Old politicians were young once, too, and it's perhaps no surprise that many older prominent politicians in office (and some out of office) were once also hailed as the new young bucks of their day.

Following the Liberal party's defeat in the 1984 election to Brian Mulroney, a group of young and then relatively unknown Liberals gained prominence and was dubbed the Rat Pack. The group included Don Boudria, Sheila Copps, Brian Tobin and John Nunziata.



The Liberal party's Rat Pack, from left, Brian Tobin, Don Boudria, Sheila Copps and John Nunziata joke with then-Opposition leader John Turner, centre, after giving him a Rat Pack T-shirt in his Parliament Hill office in 1985.

RON POLING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the late 1990s a group of Reform-party politicians, Jason Kenney, Rahim Jaffer and Rob Anders, followed in the Rat Pack's footsteps and were dubbed the Snack Pack because of their youth and penchant for eating junk food while talking policy. **METRO**

FOR MORE POLITICAL COVERAGE, VISIT **METRONEWS.CA**

### Questions

## Take our MP quiz

### Test your MP smarts:

- With 17 MPs under the age of 30 and an average age of 47.12, the NDP is collectively the youngest party in the House of Commons. Which is the oldest?
- Pierre-Luc Dusseault (NDP-Sherbrooke) is not only the young-

est MP in parliament, but the youngest ever elected in Canada. Who represented his riding on the day he was born?

- Who is the youngest MP on the Conservative benches?
- Who's the youngest Liberal?
- Who is the oldest MP in the House of Commons?
- The average age of the House dropped even further in February when this 37-year-old

MP brought her infant son, Skander-Jack, into the Chamber. Who was she?

- Speaker of the House Andrew Scheer is the youngest ever elected to the office. What is his official job description?
- Who is the youngest party leader in the House of Commons?
- Who is the youngest person ever appointed to the Senate?
- Youngest minister in the Harper cabinet?

- Unless you count the one-member Green party (leader Elizabeth May is 57), the Liberals are the oldest party, with an average age of 54.56 years. The Conservative caucus averages 51.91 years.
- On May 31, 1991, Quebec Premier Jean Charest.
- Charlotte Rempel (Calgary Centre-North) is the youngest Conservative MP at 31.
- Scott Andrews (Avalon, Newfoundland and Labrador) is 37.
- Conservative Ray Boughen (Palliser) is the House of Commons' most senior member at age 74.
- Sana Hasani (NDP-Vercheres-Les Patriotes). She named Skander-Jack in honour of NDP leader Jack Layton.
- "Chair Occupant"
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper, 52.
- Heritage Minister James Moore, 35.
- Liberal-Conservative William Miller was 32 when he went to the Red Chamber in 1867. He stayed until his death in 1912 at the age of 77.

MP quiz answers



# Bureaucracy to bear brunt of cuts: Flaherty

## Federal budget.

Conservative sources say spending cutbacks likely to total \$7 billion in annual savings by the 2014-15 fiscal year

Sources and officials agree Flaherty's seventh budget — and first with a parliamentary majority to back it — will be his longest

and most far-reaching, laying the foundations for a business-friendly Canada with smaller government and curtailed social entitlements.

The finance minister said much of the burden of cuts will fall primarily on the public service — which will shed tens of thousands of jobs — insisting services to Canadians will be mostly left untouched.

The budget will also seek

## Cost-cutting

**"There are (service) consequences, but most of it is back-office stuff."**

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, on forthcoming cuts in the federal budget

to curtail long-term spending by slowing the growth of entitlements such as elderly benefits under Old Age Security, building on

December's decision to limit future health-care transfers to the growth in the economy.

Reports suggest Flaherty also intends to give notice to the public-service unions they must pay more for their indexed pension plans.

And the CBC will likely see its wings clipped, by anywhere from five to 10 per cent of the annual \$1-billion funding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tries on a pair of new shoes Wednesday in Ottawa ahead of his budget delivery Thursday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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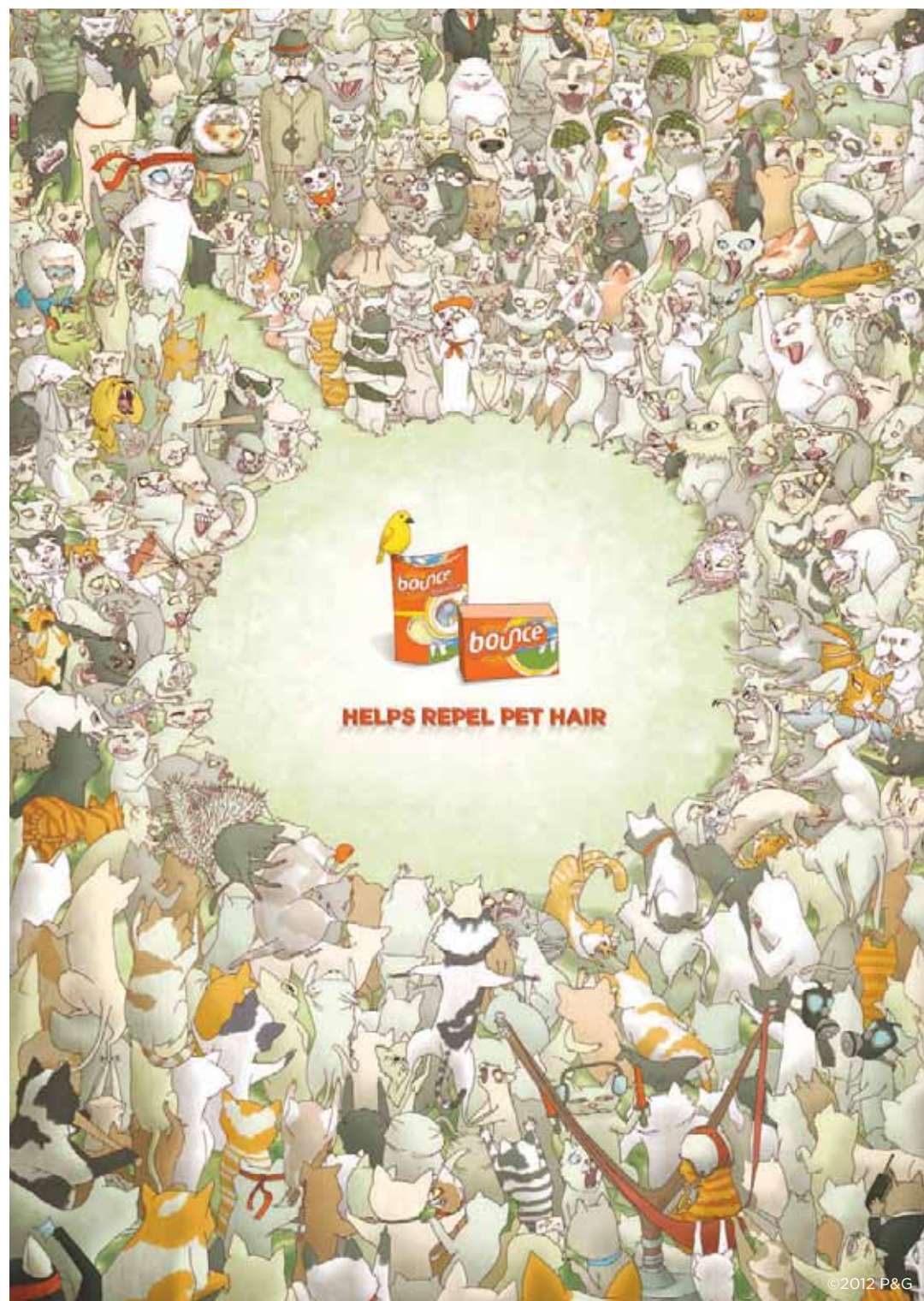
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100.21¢ US  
(-0.3¢)

**TSX**  
12,413.86 (-98.18)

**OIL**  
\$105.41 US (-\$1.92)

**GOLD**  
\$1,657.90 US (-\$27.00)

**Natural gas:** \$2.191 US (-1.7¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 13,126.21 (-71.52)



## Manufacturing

### Toyota investing \$80M in Ont. plant

Toyota's Canadian manufacturing arm announced Wednesday it will invest \$80 million to increase production at its Woodstock, Ont. assembly plant, a move it says will create 400 new jobs.

Toyota Canada said it will ramp up production of its RAV4 crossover vehicles to 200,000 vehicles at the plant by early 2013, an increase from the current annual capacity of 150,000 vehicles. The facility currently employs about 2,000 workers.

Sales have begun to spring back recently, with Toyota Canada reporting sales rose 31 per cent year-over-year in February.

The first Toyota electric vehicle to be built in North America, the RAV4 EV, will be made in Woodstock beginning this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



**Top 5: March 28<sup>th</sup>**

- 5** Kelly Clarkson  
Stronger
- 4** Carly Rae Jepsen  
Call Me Maybe
- 3** Justin Bieber  
Boyfriend
- 2** David Guetta ft Nicki Minaj  
Turn Me On
- 1** One Direction  
What Makes U Beautiful

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# Homeowners sweating over rates: Study

**BMO survey.** 57 per cent of respondents believe they could still afford their homes if interest rates were to spike by two per cent

Four in 10 Canadians would be unsure about whether they could afford their homes if their mortgage rate went up by as little as two percentage points, according to a new study from the Bank of Montreal.

The survey, compiled for

BMO by Leger Marketing, found 43 per cent believe a increase from three per cent to five per cent would either hamper their ability to pay or leave them on unsure footing.

The survey was conducted Feb. 21 to 23, two weeks before BMO sparked a round of special rate reductions among Canadian banks.

The survey's results were announced a day before the five-year special rate ended on Wednesday.

BMO's special dropped the five-year rate by half a percentage point to 2.99 per cent from 3.49 per cent and other banks

followed.

Since then, Royal, TD and National banks have announced their five-year posted rates will go up on Thursday to 5.44 per cent — an increase of nearly 2.5 percentage points from the sale price.

"At first when you look at this, you think, 'Oh, my goodness, that's pretty scary,'" said Laura Parsons, a mortgage expert at BMO.

"But if we get clients in to take a good hard look at how they're spending their money, I think they'd find that extra two per cent in their budget — it would just mean they'd have to

cut back on certain things."

One in five Canadians surveyed said a two-percentage-point rise would hurt their ability to make mortgage payments, while 23 per cent said they were unsure whether a rise would affect them.

The study, which surveyed some 1,500 Canadians in February, has a 2.5 per cent margin of error 19 times out of 20.

The survey findings come as some of Canada's biggest banks begin raising variable mortgage rates, even though the Bank of Canada's overnight interest rate remains unchanged.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Household debt

The era of cheap borrowing has encouraged many Canadians to take on houses they may not have been able to otherwise afford.

- Both Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney have recently flagged the danger to the economy of Canadians becoming increasingly indebted, mostly through taking advantage of low rates to buy homes or

take out home-equity loans.

- In a report issued last week, Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets, and colleague Benjamin Reitzes argued that with the U.S. recovery gathering steam, central bankers on both sides of the border are becoming more comfortable with the economy and less so with historically depressed interest rates.

## Retail. Reitmans' quarterly profits, sales down

Clothing retailer Reitmans reported a steep drop in profits and sales during its most recent quarter as shoppers cut back spending and the company saw margins squeezed.

The Montreal-based company said net earnings for the three months ended Jan. 28 were \$4.7 million, or seven cents per share, compared to the \$13.8 million, or 21 cents per share, it earned during same period a year earlier.

Sales in what was the last quarter of the company's 2012 financial year were just under \$260 million, compared with \$268.7 million a year ago, as same-store sales fell 1.7 per cent.

The company's gross margin for the quarter was 64.4 per cent, down from 66.9 per cent a year ago, as a stronger Canadian dollar was offset by increased promotional activity.

Reitmans shares fell 20 cents to \$15.89 on the Toronto Stock Exchange Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Labour

### Union fights Target Canada hiring policy

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union says Target has told Zellers employees that they are welcome to reapply for the same job once the American chain takes over 100 Zellers stores next year.

Spokesman Derek Johnstone says that isn't fair to employees who have been in the same store, doing the same job for many years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Expansion

### Canadian Helicopters seeks global deals

Canadian Helicopters Group hopes to use its acquisition of Helicopters (N.Z.) Ltd. last year as a model for future deals as it looks to grow its business around the world, chief executive Don Wall said Wednesday.

The deal for HNZ gave the Montreal-based company a base in New Zealand and Southeast Asia from which to build its business.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Weather may sap maple-syrup producers' profits



Emile Picard samples some fresh maple syrup at the Au Pieds de Cochon sugar shack in St-Benoit-de-Mirabel, Que. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some of Canada's maple-syrup producers say they're expecting a financial hit as recent warm weather cut the season short this year, but the price that consumers pay for the sweet stuff should remain stable.

"We don't want consumers to think it's absolutely not out there anymore, but there's less," said Ray Bonenberg, president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.

It shouldn't affect the

price, Bonenberg said, adding there was a small increase in the price of maple syrup last year and the price is set every couple of years.

"A lot of the product is already sold and you charge the price that you would normally expect to charge," Bonenberg said from his farm near Pembroke, Ont.

"Most producers are not about capitalizing on a shortage and shoving a lot of that on the consumer."

Ontario's maple syrup

producers are producing anywhere from 20 per cent to 50 per cent or so of what they normally make, he said. Ontario produced about two million litres of maple syrup last year.

Along with Ontario, the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are Canada's major producers and they all had an early start, and in some cases, an early end to the season due the recent unseasonable temperatures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Syrup season

- In New Brunswick, if the weather co-operates, production should reach last year's level.
- In Quebec, Canada's biggest producer of maple syrup, production has wrapped up early except for the eastern side and quantities are down in the southern area.

# REACH DEEPER INTO YOUR POCKETS, MR. FLAHERTY



**HE SAYS...**  
John Mazerolle  
metronews.ca/hesays

I'm concerned about the federal budget, which is fortunate because the more concerned I am about something the easier it is to reach my word count.

As I write this, journalists are using all their skills (begging and whining) to get "government sources" to tell them budget details before today's official announcement. But I know how it will go:

1) Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will explain that the budget is a fiscally conservative plan (except for the prisons and jets part) and that it will create jobs (except for the jobs-cuts part), and that it shows that Canadians have a bright future (except that we're one step away from DOOM and only the Conservatives can protect us).

2) The opposition leaders will, using talking points they wrote three weeks ago, explain that Flaherty has the same moral standing as, say, Satan, and that the budget document is the worst thing they've read since Twilight.

3) The opposition will vote for it anyway.

I don't know about you, but this era of deep cuts is starting to get me down.

There's the world economic collapse, where countries like Greece decide they can't have nice things anymore and burn them.

There's provincial woes, where places like Ontario have budget speeches that read like eulogies.

And in Toronto, where I live, the only thing approaching economic good news is when sports fans win free pizza because the Raptors score 100 points. (Rumour has it the Leafs have a similar promotion, but it's been lost to the mists of time).

It's getting to the point where we should really give up on the tradition of finance ministers buying new shoes on budget day. Instead, he or she should pose for newspapers with a nice, shiny axe.

I'm trying to take a pragmatic, level-headed approach to the cuts, which is why I offer the following advice to Mr. Flaherty. Forgive me if this is trite, but I think the government should — this is important, write it down — wear a lot of jackets.

I'll explain. I, like Canada itself, am in debt up to my earmuffs. But I just made some money back, as I do every spring, because I pulled out a spring jacket and discovered a crisp \$5 bill. Pretty sweet.

Clearly, all MPs should carry the federal coiffers in their jacket pockets. Then wait till next spring and reap the surprise windfall.

This works so well for me that I'm thinking about getting more jackets to increase my return. I'm pretty sure Ben Bernanke does this as well.

Frankly, Mr. Flaherty, I see this as our only hope. If you don't agree, I'll be deeply concerned. At least until I hit my word count.

Now.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

## What goes up...

GEOFFREY ROBINSON/REX FEATURES



### Off course

### Teen pilot flies balloon into pylon

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, U.K.** Three people were saved by rescue crews after a hot-air balloon dramatically crashed into 132,000-volt power cables. Freakish winds sent teen pilot Adam Griffiths and his two companions toward overhead lines near the village of Bozeat, some 100 kilometres north-west of London. **MWN**

### Hanging on a wire

"There was a bang and a little bit of a fire in the basket, but it put itself out as I went to grab the extinguisher. We slid down the power line and came to a standstill."

**PILOT ADAM GRIFFITHS**

WHO SUFFERED MINOR BURNS

### Hot-air boom

- **In numbers:** The trio were dangling from the overhead lines 13 metres above the ground for five hours, while emergency teams worked to switch off power lines.
- **How they passed the time:** The stranded balloonists played I Spy as they waited to be rescued. "But after we had 'g' for 'grass' and 'p' for 'pylon' we didn't have many more ideas," Griffiths said.



Register at [metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca) and take the quick poll

Do you do any April Fool's Day pranks at your work?

42%  
YES,  
WE'RE A  
FUN  
GROUP

16%  
ONLY IF  
THEY'RE  
DONE  
TASTEFULLY

42%  
NO, THEY  
ALWAYS  
BACKFIRE



### Twitter

**@lucrichard:** You'd think the Halifax Mooseheads had won the Memorial cup by the # of tweets I see of fans bragging about sweeping Moncton

**@kdorcas:** I love fake QMJHL fans that are all "I'm buying tickets to the Mooseheads game on Friday" and you're like, "Except they just swept?"

**@edgarnormous:** #Halifax needs new council. The

decisions they make just suck. #Stadium? Why not? It only does us good..

**@JasonPelley:** After two months, finally got internet at our pad. Won't miss sitting out front of a closed laundromat to download reports at night. #halifax

**@maaaarrry:** Oh #Halifax, your bright sunshine is very deceiving today since it's very cold out



# Artist combines his love for nature with activism

**Art show.** Mark Brennan wants people to experience nature through his eyes and ears with new exhibit



**BACKSTAGE PASS**  
Jenna Conter  
halifax@metronews.ca

For me, it started with Fern Gully, nearly a decade later came Avatar, and recently we've seen The Lorax.

Regardless of the amount of Hollywood attention, our natural world is losing the battle against modernity.

Sure, those situations take place in the liberal minds of Dr. Seuss and James Cameron (who I'm sure fueled his Challenger vessel with a lot more than the leaves of a Truffula tree), however if you've ventured out past the Empire Theatres in Bayers Lake, the frontlines run close to home.

Soon after artist Mark Brennan lost his forest playground to clear-cutting and suburban development, the Scottish-born nature lover quickly merged his artistic talents with an activist voice.

"People in capitalist society see nature as a resource, but there's a flip side known as intrinsic value," Brennan shared with me over

## See it

- New works by Mark Brennan will be on display until April 17 at Argyle Fine Art at 1559 Barrington St.

## Quoted

**"People in capitalist society see nature as a resource, but there's a flip side known as intrinsic value."**

Artist Mark Brennan

the phone from his Pictou home. "A tree is good not just because it produces wood, but because it's part of an important ecosystem."

Upon moving from Scotland to Nova Scotia, Brennan's connection to nature strengthened when he began painting to the hums of home-recorded nature sounds.

"It's taken my emotional response to nature to another level," he said.

"A level that I never imagined before."

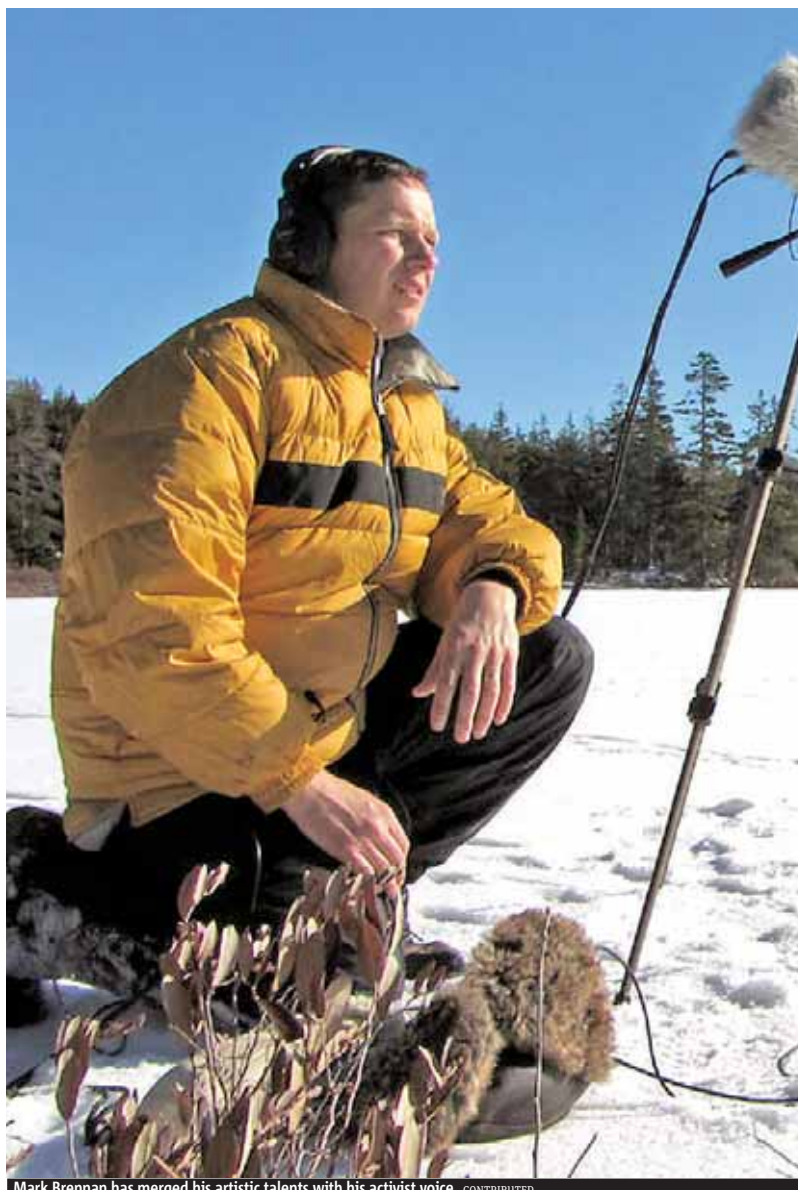
Sadly, as the Acadian forest came tumbling down around him, Brennan's inspirational soundtrack is now merely a preservation tool.

"Recording was a way I got something out of nature but now it's used to raise awareness and show people that there are wonderful, spiritual experiences to be had in wilderness and nature."

Showing at Argyle Fine Art in downtown Halifax, Brennan invites you to experience nature through his eyes and ears.

As a soundscape recordist, videographer, and painter, Brennan looks forward to creating large installations capturing the essence of nature within one room.

Sadly, Brennan fears, this may one day be our only vantage point.



Mark Brennan has merged his artistic talents with his activist voice. CONTRIBUTED

# 2

## SCENE

### Scene in brief

## Bee Gees star in hospital after surgery

Bee Gees star Robin Gibb has undergone further surgery following a sustained illness, a publicist said Wednesday. Gibb is recovering in the hospital after intestinal surgery over the weekend and has been forced to cancel a number of commitments, publicist Doug Wright said. Gibb is slated to attend the Royal Philharmonic's premiere performance of The Titanic Requiem in London on April 10, and will perform a new song, Don't Cry Alone. Gibb, 62, was hospitalized late last year for stomach and colon problems, but told the BBC last month he was making a good recovery. He did not disclose the nature of his illness, but said a growth on his colon had been removed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### On the web



Canadian DJ Deadmau5, Madonna declare a truce on Twitter



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# Showing some love to La Belle Ville

**TV.** Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain loves Montreal's 'uniquely crazy' food

When celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain was compiling his list of international cities to feature on the TV show *The Layover*, Montreal was a no-brainer for inclu-

sion.

That's because the city's cuisine is "uniquely crazy, uniquely individualistic and rugged and excessive and wonderful," according to the New York City native.

"It says Canada to me," he added during a recent telephone interview.

The premise behind the *The Layover* was simple but highly challenging: Bourdain spent between 24 and

48 hours in each of 10 cities and packed in as much hard living as the liver and the rest of his body could take.

Viewers are taken off the beaten track as Bourdain, who has also written several books and stars in Anthony Bourdain: *No Reservations*, shows them where to visit and where to stay around the globe.

The Montreal episode also includes debate on

whether its bagels are better than New York's, as well as adventures involving dragon boats and surfing on the St. Lawrence River.

"We were looking to do something fast and different, and a little scary, something that challenged and pushed us," says the 55-year-old.

But was it fun?

"Most of the time," is his immediate reply.

"It was difficult. Essentially, it's eight days of serious eating and drinking compressed into two (for the purposes of) the show."

"That's tough. It was very physically demanding and a little intimidating, a little frightening to embark on a bold new venture like that, especially when you're eating and drinking as much as I was."

The series has aired in the United States and gets its Canadian debut on *Travel + Escape* on April 11. The Montreal episode is set for broadcast May 2.

Bourdain has fond memories of Montreal dating back to a book tour in 2001 when local chefs took him under their wing.

"I knew we could make a good show there and have a good time doing it. It's my favourite city in Canada."

"I love the chefs there," he says, ringing off the names of Martin Picard (Au Pied de Cochon) Normand Laprise (Toque) Frederic Morin and David McMillan (both Joe Beef) as some of the outstanding ones.

"It's the most uniquely Canadian food in Canada. In Vancouver the cuisine is a very strong mix of great Asian food from all over Asia, a lot of great home-grown stuff, but the cuisine in Montreal could exist no-

## The Layover

- The other cities where Bourdain lived large for the series were New York ("the greatest city in the world," he says unabashedly), Singapore, Hong Kong, Miami, London, Rome, Amsterdam, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

where else other than Quebec.

"It looks and tastes different from food anywhere else and the chefs, particularly when you're talking about Martin or Fred or Dave, are unlike chefs anywhere else."

Bourdain has plans to do another season of *The Layover* this summer and Canada's largest city will be getting in on the fare.

"Toronto will be on the list for sure," he says of a city he has visited several times but never featured on any of his shows.

Bourdain says that when he talks to journalists and chefs from elsewhere in Canada, he always hears trash talk about Toronto.

"I feel sort of an obligation to highlight that there is indeed good food there and good people, as I know from personal experience," he says. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Anthony Bourdain PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Justin Bieber

## Bieber's phone prank lands him in hot water again

Justin Bieber's latest Twitter antics are causing him some legal trouble.

Bieber posted a random phone number — minus the final digit — and wrote: "Call me right now."

Two Texas residents reportedly received more than 1,000 phone calls and are now suing the Canadian pop

star for damages due to "reckless behaviour," according to Hollyscoop.

What kind of damages are we talking about? Millions? No.

They're reportedly after tickets to a Bieber concert, an apology and an endorsement of an on-line business run by one of the plaintiffs, among other things.

### Twitter



@ParisHilton

At the airport about to take off to Sydney! Haven't been to Australia in a long time, so I'm very excited for this trip! Love it there!



@jimmyfallon

I once was talked into getting a perm. (I was in college & it was free.)



@katperry

don't believe in the hype.



@SethMacFarlane

There's nothing more grungy-looking than a red-headed person in a '70s movie.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



She's a smooth operator. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## What is going on with Bethenny Frankel's marriage?



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson  
scene@metronews.ca

There are few reality TV stars who know how to game the system as well as Bethenny Frankel.

Her ambition is awe-inspiring: She's risen from a throwaway contestant on 2005's *The Apprentice*: Martha Stewart, to, despite not being married, one of the original five "housewives" on *The Real Housewives of New York City*.

From there, she wrote several New York Times bestselling books, starred in two spin-offs, *Bethenny Getting Married?* and *Bethenny Ever After*, and founded the company *Skinnygirl Cocktails*, which she sold last year for an alleged

\$120 million dollars.

But is she so driven that she's letting her marriage to husband Jason Hoppy suffer?

That's what *In Touch* is reporting. They say that Hoppy has moved out of their New York City apartment and is staying at a nearby hotel. They report that Hoppy is claiming he ditched the \$5 million Tribeca condo he shares with Frankel and their 23-month-old daughter, Bryn, because of renovations.

But a source thinks he also left because he's fed up with Bethenny's diva behaviour.

"The fighting has gotten worse," the source tells *In Touch*.

Apparently, Frankel has become overly obsessed with the launch of her L.A.-based talk show.

"Her energy has been nervous and neurotic," the source says. "He can't take it anymore, so he's been doing everything on his own."

Or, this drama could just be fabricated in order for fans to train their attention back on Frankel in time for her talk show, set to launch in September.

She's witchy that way.



Lindsay Lohan

## Lindsay Lohan facing another legal battle

With her probation set to end today, Lindsay Lohan is bracing for another legal battle heats up.

Thaer Kamal has reportedly handed over surveillance footage he claims shows the actress hitting him with her car and then driving away outside a Hollywood hookah lounge, according to Radar Online. And Kamal's lawyers may be interested in more than just a hit-and-run investigation, as reports recently surfaced that Kamal has a history of insurance fraud,

something he vehemently denies.

"Thaer feels that Lindsay's camp has bullied him by making up stories that he was being investigated for insurance fraud," a source says. "(His lawyers) will be investigating who made those false statements about Thaer being the focus of insurance fraud investigations and will take the appropriate legal action against those responsible for the false and defamatory comments if necessary."



Megan Fox

## Megan Fox rumoured to be pregnant

After answering a slew of parenting-related questions while promoting *Friends with Kids*, Megan Fox is reportedly expecting her first child with husband Brian Austin Green, according to *Star* magazine.

"They just found out,"

a source claims, "And are incredibly excited."

The happy couple won't be sharing the news just yet, though, the source warns. "It's still early, so they are only telling close friends and family members."

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# 3

## LIFE

### Fashion flash

### Emerging icon

The Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence is not only replacing Kristen Stewart as Hollywood's most popular teen heroine, but she's out dressing her too. And that Vogue cover will be coming in three, two...

### Attention needed

Katy Perry and Karl Lagerfeld's man, Baptiste Giabiconi, have been "sneaking" around for all the paparazzi to "catch." Yawn and snore. We think Baptiste did a better acting job in those Magnum commercials.

METRO WORLD NEWS

### On the Web



Everyday glamour — a la 'Gatsby' — returns as favourite fashion look for spring.

# Trend of the week: white vs. floral brights

**Fashion fight.** Which trend will win in this spring style dust-up?

**KENYA HUNT**  
Metro World News in London

Forget about the magazines for a second, and let's talk about the trends that women are actually wearing.

When it comes to updating your wardrobe for spring, there seems to be two schools of thought emerging on the street.

In the right corner: Team White. This is a look that is painfully easy to pull off (hurrah) and reliably chic.

A win-win, no? The trick is to wear it head-to-toe — like, ivory trousers and a matching blazer as a fashion forward update on the work suit or white shorts and a coordinating button-down as a light way to ease into spring. Just don't eat any condi-



Head-to-toe white in London...  
MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS



And in Paris. KARL-EDWIN GUERRE



Bright florals spotted on the street in Paris... GIA TONICS



And in Milan. GIA TONICS

ments with your lunch that day.

And in the left: Team Floral Brights — a look that

was adopted by practically every fashion editor during last month's ready-to-wear shows. You can take the

whole-hog approach by mixing them in different colour ways and layering them on generously or just dip one

toe into the trend pool by limiting the print to a single pair of jeans or a skirt—the bolder the colour, the better.

### Team White

**H&M**

Leather vest  
\$199, HM.COM



### Team White

**Mango**

Tailored trouser  
\$63, ASOS.COM

### Team Floral Brights

**Carin Wester**

Blouse  
\$150 PIXIEMARKET.COM



### Team Floral Brights

**Goldsign**

Jeans  
\$225, NETAPORTER.COM

### Team Floral Brights

**Elizabeth and James**

Pajama pants  
\$325, SHOPBOP.COM



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**JEANNE SPACE**  
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**@Jeanne\_Beker:** How many prs of shoes does one really need to take on a beach vacation? Flip flops, sneakers, wedges, stilettos.. + how many of each? Arghh!

**@Joanna242** Leave the sneakers behind and pack a couple of extra pairs of sexy sandals...

**@Jeanne\_Beker** But what if I want to hit the tennis court? Or go for a sail???

**@jamillahross** Barbados is very fashionable. I'd pack more shoes, not less.

**@Jeanne\_Beker** Good advice!!!



**@Jeanne\_Beker:** Overlooking The Crane beach...out for a pre-dinner cocktail with @qualityslippers + @joeyoneil

**@Jeanne\_Beker:** Barbados: Heaven on earth! My terrace at The Crane. Savouring EVERY second. And I just got here!!!



**@Jeanne\_Beker:** Just been offered a rum punch at 9:30 am! Where else but on a Catamaran "Cool Runnings" cruise?

**@sarahleeswagger** try pasoa, it will electrify your taste buds - i promise.

**@DanielRWilson** I trust you said yes. Only to be polite, really.

**@fashionNE** I would kill for some of that rum punch right now, feels like a Monday morning here in the real world

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.

JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

# A leg up on the bolds and brights

**Bottoms up.** Ditch those dull blue jeans in exchange for some extra loud leg-wear

Your attention, please: One of the easiest ways to spruce up your wardrobe this spring is with a splash of colour. It doesn't have to go on your lips or over your shoulder — and not across your chest, either. This season, the place for bold colour is on the bottom.

Coloured denim and, by extension, every other kind of pants and trousers in hues as bright as the rainbow, are a key look in stores at every end of the shopping spectrum. Part of the pervasiveness is that it's pretty democratic: You find the shape and silhouette that you like best and find the shade that best complements your skin tone. Swap out blue or khaki and, voila, you're on trend.

Think of it as you would a fresh coat of paint.



Colour on colour? Yes please!

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS/  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We see coloured bottoms as easy to wear, believe it or not."

Reverse whatever outfit you would have worn before, she suggests: Instead of jeans and a bold pink or red top, put the colour on the bottom and pair it with a denim chambray shirt — maybe even a western style — or go for a little femininity with a white lace tank top peeking out the top of a crisp white or blue button-down. You're also likely to find an easy transition into crocheted or other loose-weave sweaters in natural, neutral colours, too, Ward says.

However, she adds, while there are many user-friendly ways to wear coloured pants, don't expect any of them to go unnoticed. Turning a few heads is the point, Ward says, and eventually you'll gain the confidence to put the bright top with the bright bottom. "Being bold is very modern ... and the most modern way to do this is colour on colour. Wear the unexpected — a red bottom, tangerine tank and cobalt blue cardigan." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Fresh faced. Spring into the coming season with a few treats for your visage

While you spruce up your wardrobe for spring, give your cosmetics accoutrements a refresh as well.

BY JANINE FALCON, THE KIT.CA

### Point Taken

You're only as precise as your tools. Sephora Pencil Sharpeners have a swing-out well to keep shavings neatly out of your sephora. Tweezer-man Tweezers are pro favourites for getting at the tiniest strays. \$30.sephora.com/canada

### Eye Opener

Replace that old, loose lash curler you've had forever. The Sephora Lash Curler comes in peppy metallic colours and gives a really good curve with its silicone pad. \$19. Or try the Dior Heated Lash Wand instead. \$31, both at Sephora.

### It's a Wash

Making up should always be good clean fun. Occasionally spritz Beauty So Clean Cosmetic Sanitizer Mist directly onto powder shadows, blushes and foundation to blitz bacteria build-up — it won't hurt the finish. \$13, at drugstores and beautyso-clean.com.

Clinique Makeup Brush Cleanser is handy when you don't have time for a thorough wash session. \$17, clinique.ca.

Quo Toe Separators aren't just for your toes —

they're also for brushes after you wash them. Watch the video to catch our drift. \$3.29, Shoppers Drug Mart.

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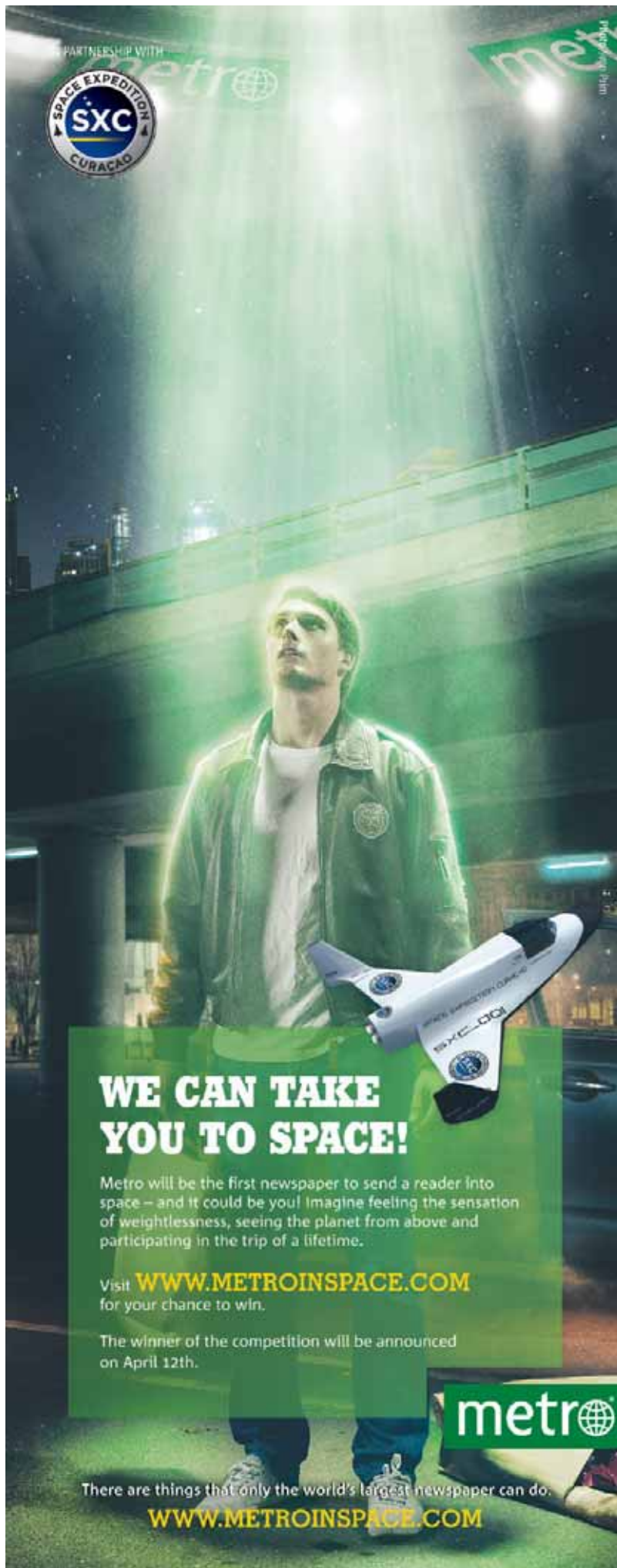
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# Shake up your fave comfort foods with new ingredients

## Sweet Potato and Sausage Shepherd's Pie



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sweet Potato and Sausage Shepherd's Pie.** This dish combines elements of the classic and some new tasty additions

Some people are adamant about keeping dishes like Shepherd's Pie traditional.

For those who are not, this version uses corn, a thick bed of mashed sweet potatoes, a sausage base and some lean ground beef for good measure. The result is savoury and sweet in just the right balance.

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Lightly oil a standard loaf pan.

2. Place sweet potatoes in pot and add enough water to cover by 2.5 cm (1 inch). Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over high, combine olive oil, garlic and onion. Sauté for 5 minutes or until just tender.

3. Add sausage, beef and pepper. Sauté until meat is browned and cooked through, about 8 minutes. Add beer and simmer until reduced by half, about 4 minutes.

4. In glass, mix cornstarch with cool water. Add cornstarch mixture to meat and stir until thickened. Remove from heat.

5. Spread meat and onion mix evenly in loaf pan. In bowl, mix corn kernels and creamed corn, then spread in an even layer over meat. Set aside.

6. Once sweet potatoes cook, drain and return to the pot. Add the milk, butter and brown sugar, then mash potatoes until smooth. Season with salt.

7. Spoon the potatoes evenly over corn. Bake for 35 minutes or until the potatoes are lightly browned at the edges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Ingredients

- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 250 g (1/2 lb) each loose Italian sausage meat and lean ground beef
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) black pepper
- 175 ml (6 oz) stout or other dark beer (about half a bottle)
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) cool water
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) corn kernels, drained
- 1 small can (about 245 ml/8 1/4 oz) creamed corn
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) brown sugar
- Salt, to taste

## Cookbook of the Week

### The One Dish Collection



There's nothing quite like classic comfort dishes. That's why food director Annabelle Waugh and the test kitchen staff at Canadian Living magazine have released *The One Dish Collection* (Transcontinental Books, \$26.95).

The book contains 183 recipes with 80 illustrations that came from staff members who remembered their favourite meals as youngsters growing up.

The recipes are split into the chapters: soups, stews, hearty salads, casseroles, skillet and simmers, and pastas and risottos. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**





Forgo a long sofa and consider individual club chairs in the living room. Tess Chair, \$1,380, Crate and Barrel. CRATE AND BARREL

# The right-size furniture matters

**Decor ideas.** A measuring tape is a mover's best friend



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
home@metronews.ca

I am moving into a spacious walk-up apartment. I am concerned that the narrow hallways and stairwells might impede me from getting larger furniture pieces into my space.  
**Any ideas or design tricks?**  
Tina Daenz, via email.

As a former walk-up apartment renter myself, I know your anxiety around getting furniture up.

Here's a few things you should be cautious of when ordering furnishings, and a few moving solutions I learned.

## Bed

If a king-size bed is your choice then opt for the split-box spring. Each piece is the size of a single box

spring, which makes it easy to move around in tight spaces.

You can also choose two smaller mattresses (called twin plus), which is great for customizing your comfort level from one side to the other, and still enjoy the size of a king bed.

Co-ordinate the split bed with one king-size headboard and bedskirt to give a finished king-size look to the bed.

## Couch

If a comfy sofa is just too large to be brought up a skinny staircase, consider a grouping of lightweight, small-scaled club chairs.

You'll create a lounge feel with the chairs around a cocktail table or large round ottoman and you'll be seating as many people as if you had the traditional sofa and chair set. Plus, you'll have more flexibility for re-arranging the furniture during holidays and parties (see the Tess Chair, above).

Forget about a sleeper sofa altogether; not only are they heavy, they are usually much deeper in size than a regular sofa (the extra depth helps contain the mattress mechanism).

## Cabinets

Armoires and china cabinets too large? Find furnishings that disassemble or can be placed together once inside the desired room.

If choosing a china cabinet, make sure it comes in the form of a credenza and hutch; each piece will be easier to move up and down stairs.

You can also purchase three or four smaller cabinets or bookshelves and line them up along a long



Ikea Stockholm glass-door cabinet in black, \$399. IKEA

wall for the look of one large piece of furniture (see the Stockholm Glass Cabinet, left).

## Like a 'ship in a bottle'

Here's a list of easily-moved items that can offer big impact and still move easily up the stairs:

- **Area rugs.** Look for colourful, large patterned rugs to fill a room with style.
- **Draperies.** Make small windows look larger by hanging draperies on the dead wall space beside windows.
- **Artwork.** A big mirror or a piece of art helps create a focal point in a room and offers something large-scale.

without taking up precious floor space.

- **Paint.** If you've got a naturally dark room in your place paint it a dark colour for unexpected drama.
- **Lighting.** Whether you are renting or own your home, new lighting is a great way to make a place feel sexy at night. A single spotlight on a piece of art or a dramatically painted wall washed with light will help create a special mood in your new place.



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# This year's hottest gardening trends

**Planning ahead.**  
Metro speaks with expert Tara Nolan on what's hot for 2012

**TERESA CHYKOWSKI**  
For Metro

Although it's far too early to start planting outdoors, it's never too early to start planning. Metro caught up with Tara Nolan, editor of CanadianGardening.com, fresh from a speaking engagement at Canada Blooms in Toronto.

A "budding" gardener, Nolan keeps her ear to the ground (or, rather, to the web) for the latest gardening trends. Here are a few 2012 trends she shared with us:

## Vertical gardening

There is no reason why

small spaces can't make a big impression. "With many people downsizing their living (and growing) spaces, the trend toward vertical gardening is gaining momentum," says Nolan.

"If you're dealing with limited outdoor spaces, think of growing upward rather than outward." Climbing plants can flourish on trellises, on arbours, along fences or in small containers.

## Straw-bale gardening

Have you ever thought about growing tomatoes in a bale of straw? Straw-bale gardening isn't just a unique approach to growing, it's also an excellent option if you have poor soil, have limited space or have difficulty bending over.

"Bales are great for growing everything from annuals to vegetables," says Nolan. "If

you are going to try bale gardening, stay away from hay as it contains seeds that could grow along with your plants. Hay can also wreak havoc for allergy sufferers."

## Vessel gardening

If you don't have the time or the green thumb to do your own planting but still want to surround yourself with beautiful flowers, foliage or even vegetables, your local garden centre can help with a variety of pre-planted mixed containers.

"Pre-planted pots of edibles are growing in popularity because it makes gardening more accessible to a wider range of people," says Nolan. Ready-to-buy mini-gardens can provide a continuous supply of fresh herbs, luscious tomatoes and crisp lettuce greens, right in your own backyard.



Vessel gardening makes gardening accessible to a wider range of people.  
THINKSTOCK

## Spring cleaning key

The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and our homes have a bad case of the winter blues. But before you tackle those dirty chores, remember that spring cleaning is a tradition that serves a very useful purpose — to rid the home and exterior property of the build up that has occurred during the winter months.

"The winter season brings a lot more headaches than cold weather and snow," says Wayne Ross, insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "Many of the effects of winter are noticed in the spring and it's important to take care of those problems before they lead to serious property damage."

Ross offers four simple tips to help make exterior spring cleaning a breeze this year:

- **Inspect your property.** Frozen ground can cause shifts in your landscaping and patios which, if left unattended, can result in costly repairs and injuries. Be sure to inspect your walkways and driveways for cracks.
- **Remove debris from your gutters.** Ensure that leaves and dirt are removed to prevent water blockage.
- **Repair damage to your roof.** Replace missing or damaged shingles to prevent leaking roofs.
- **Examine fences around your property and pool.** Ensure fences are still sturdy and lock properly to prevent injury and intruders from entering your yard. **NEWS CANADA**



Gardening expert Mark Cullen.  
CONTRIBUTED

## Tips from Canada's gardening guru

### What's new.

Mark Cullen shares his passion about working the earth

**PETER DOYLE**  
For Metro

When Mark Cullen speaks, Canadian gardeners listen. A master communicator, he shares his passion through appearances on television and

radio, and in regular newspaper columns and blogs. He has also written 18 books.

### What's new in this year?

Cullen: Vegetable gardening is more popular today than it's been for many years — we haven't seen anything like it since the Victory Gardens of World War II. Sales of vegetable seeds have skyrocketed in recent years. I think people are concerned about what they eat and where it comes from. And the truth is that

many foods are surprisingly easy to grow. Tomatoes and basil, for instance, do very well planted in containers on a sunny porch or deck.

### And outside of vegetable gardening?

Cullen: I know that lots of people are keen on the new hydrangeas and spires. Another big trend is gardening as a form of self-expression. People will plant annuals, perennials, shrubs and vegetables in the same container.

I think it's great!

### What do you like best?

Cullen: I love all of the tasks involved in planting — digging the holes, seeding, raking, mulching. There's nothing better than working in the earth. This year is pretty special for me because my daughter is getting married and we're hosting the wedding on our property. I want to make sure the property looks its absolute best on the big day.

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Now is a good time to assess the state of your screens, both in the windows and in the doors. NEWS CANADA

## Spruce up. Top tips to freshen up your home

Throughout the winter, our main concern is that windows and doors are properly insulated to keep the cold weather out and the warm air in.

Now that spring has sprung, we can turn our attention to letting the sun shine in, airing out the house with that fresh spring breeze and generally lightening up our homes. Here are some tips on how to do just that:

• In anticipation of the warmer temperatures, now would

be a good time to assess the state of your screens, both in the windows and in the doors.

If the screens were left on during the winter, it's possible that frost and freezing gusts of wind have damaged them.

Plus, not only do screens allow for the fresh air to flow through your home, but opening them gives a chance for the house to air out, expelling the dust that has been collecting throughout the winter.

• Screens aren't the only aspect that will make your home feel lighter; try replacing dark, heavy drapery with something brighter and more delicate to make the interior of your home feel more like spring.

• For the exterior, consider replacing or renovating your front door. This is the first thing guests will notice when arriving at your home, so why not make sure it feels bright and welcoming?

NEWS CANADA

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# Spring paint trends

**Think outside of the box.** Consider introducing paint to everything from worn wood furniture, floor boards and the ceiling

Like any home décor trend, painting trends come and go. From sponge and stencilling to accent walls and painted chalkboards, new innovations have paved the way for exciting developments.

If you are looking to give your home a quick pick-me-up, nothing is faster, easier and less expensive than a fresh coat of paint.

According to The Home Depot Canada, here are some of the most popular painting projects and solutions for spring.

## Paint the unexpected

Traditionally, colour has been reserved for the walls only.



This spring, consider introducing paint to everything from worn wood furniture and floor boards to the ceiling. Whether you apply a muted tone, bright hue or a dynamic

check pattern, you will be amazed at the results.

## Paint and go

Paint technology has come a long way in saving time. Whether one room or the whole house is on the spring checklist, make any paint project easier with a premium paint and primer all in one. Available in a wide range of colours, Behr Premium Plus has received rave reviews.

## Colour match it

Sometimes inspiration is found from that perfect colour in a piece of art or even a throw pillow. Now you can bring in a home accessory or fabric swatch to the Colour Solutions Centre at The Home Depot and an associate will replicate the colour in a can of paint. Imagine the possibilities.

For more, check out the DreamBook at homedepot.ca/dreambook. **NEWS CANADA**



## Colours. Greys, blues, corals hot this year

With the warmth of spring comes a blast of much-needed colour as plants and people come back to life after a long winter. Winter can be harsh, not just on us but on our houses. Now is the time to give your house a little TLC.

Every season has a fresh new palette of hot colours. The same is true for home exteriors.

"Rich greys, fresh blues and corals have been steadily growing in popularity inside the home," says Sharon

Grech, colour and style expert for Benjamin Moore.

"These colours translate to your exterior in shades that are understated and organic to work with the natural elements. Paints and wood stains are always a smart investment because they not only enhance the beauty of your exterior surfaces, but also protect them from nature's effects."

Grech suggests limiting your exterior palette to three or four colours, including

those of fixed elements like roof and cladding. Beautiful body and trim colours, such as Jute, Pashmina and Kendall Charcoal co-ordinate well with exterior stone and wood, and you can always accent with vibrant hues to showcase your personal flair.

"Since it is a relatively small area in contrast to the house, your front door is the one spot where you have the most versatility when it comes to colour," says Grech.

**NEWS CANADA**

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# Top tips for a neat, healthy home

Spring is a season associated with many things: Rubber boots worn on rainy days, anticipation of the first blooming flower, and, of course, spring cleaning.

The winter season causes most people to stay hibernating in their homes, shutting out the cold weather — and shutting in germs.

Here are a few facts to consider before you start your spring cleaning.

## Germs can live in the air

Having poor indoor air quality can result in symptoms such as allergies, asthma and headaches.

A professional cleaning of the air handling system will help remove dirt, dust, mould and mildew from the air that may be making you sick. Sears technicians use one of the most powerful and effective air duct cleaning systems on the market; their electron-

ic air cleaners are 95 per cent efficient down to one micron.

## Carpets can be dirty

Did you know the average carpet is about 4,000 times dirtier than your toilet seat?

Sears recommends that you clean your carpets every six months because having carpets cleaned regularly and professionally will prevent the spread of dirt and germs in homes. In order to make

your life easier, they offer a two-step deep clean service that is most recommended by North America's leading carpet manufacturers.

## Hardwood easy to clean

Hardwood floors are generally easier to keep clean than carpets.

Hardwood flooring keeps the dirt at the surface, easing concerns about deep-bedded bacteria. Try lighten-

ing up your home in tandem with the season and replacing dingy carpets with beautiful, easy-to-care-for hardwood flooring. Sears Home Services offers all types of options including pre-finished hardwood, cork, vinyl and laminate flooring.

More information about how to ensure your home gets germ-free for spring can be found through Sears Home Services. **NEWS CANADA**



## Roof maintenance key in the spring

**Assess damage.** The exterior of your home can take a beating in the winter months

As spring approaches and it becomes increasingly more appealing to be outdoors, why not take the time to assess the damage Old Man Winter may have inflicted on your home?

The exterior of a house can take quite a beating, as it shields you and your family from the rain, snow, and chilly winds. Now is the time to make the necessary repairs to your roof.

Ensuring your roof is in good shape protects your home in more ways than just an overhead shelter. A well maintained roofing system can protect your home from leaks, which in turn prevents damage to your home.

Here are a few helpful hints to make sure your roof is in top condition.

- Check out your roof's surface to see if there are curled, cracked, or missing shingles. Greater shingle damage increases the likelihood that your home may experience leaks during bad weather.

- Analyze for other signs of wear to your roofing system, including damaged flashing, valleys, or caulking. Damage to these areas can be problematic, as these roofing components are used to protect the parts of your roof that are most vulnerable to leaks.

- Look at your home's roof-top vents. These features ensure your attic space gets the ventilation it needs. Improper ventilation from damaged or missing vents can impact your home's air circulation, as well as the longevity of your shingles.

If you are uneasy about heading up to the roof yourself, or unsure of what to look for, hire a trained professional. **NEWS CANADA**

Sprucing up your home for spring? Have some unwanted items in good working order? Don't forget about

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## 4

## SPORTS

## Final Four

Never too  
old to fight  
for their  
team

Authorities say the Kentucky-Louisville basketball rivalry boiled over at a Kentucky dialysis clinic when one patient punched another during an argument about the teams. Georgetown police Lt. Robert Swanigan says the altercation began Monday with a verbal exchange between the 68-year-old Kentucky fan and 71-year-old Louisville fan. The men were arguing over who will win when the teams meet in the Final Four on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Quoted

"We knew what his character was and what kind of guy he was going to be in the clubhouse. So that obviously came out the way it was expected. Omar just had a very good camp and he deserved to be on the team."

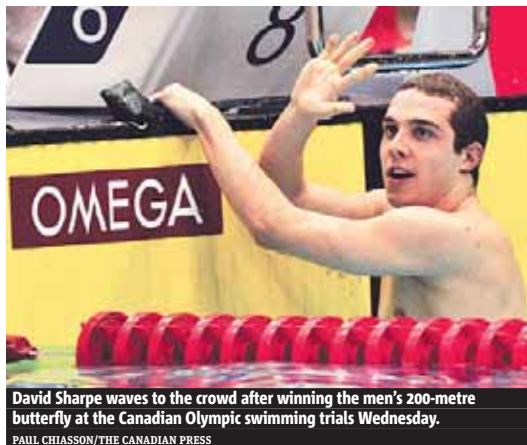
Toronto Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos on Omar Vizquel, who has played his way into another season in the majors. Boosted by an excellent showing in spring training, the backup infielder was added to the Blue Jays' roster Wednesday a month before his 45th birthday, making him the oldest active position player in the big leagues.

## On the web



LeBron James has a dislocated finger but, despite doctors' wishes, will take the floor for the Heat as the Dallas Mavericks return to Miami for the first time since winning the NBA championship last June at American Airlines Arena. Scan the code for the story.

## Looking Sharpe for the London Olympics



David Sharpe waves to the crowd after winning the men's 200-metre butterfly at the Canadian Olympic swimming trials Wednesday.

PAUL CHLISSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax's David Sharpe has all but guaranteed himself a spot at the Summer Olympics in London.

The 21-year-old, who stars for the Halifax Trojans Aquatic Club and the Dalhousie Tigers, placed first in the men's 200-metre butterfly at Canada's Olympic swimming trials in Montreal on Wednesday.

Sharpe, who squeaked into the final as the eighth and final qualifier, posted a personal-best time of 1:58.81 to earn a nomination for Canada's Olympic team. The team won't be officially selected until June.

Toronto's Zack Chetrat was right behind him at 1:58.83.

"I expected to win," said Sharpe, whose time set a new Nova Scotia provincial record.

"Nobody else did but that's how I need to think if I'm going to finish first. This morning I made some bad mistakes (in qualifying) and it didn't go the way I wanted. I knew the adjustments I had to make and it paid off."

The trials, which feature 700 swimmers from across the country, continue at the 1976 Olympic Pool through Sunday.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



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## Sharpe's career highlights

- Won two gold medals at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- Took gold in the 200-metre butterfly at this year's Eastern Canadian championships in Gatineau, Que.
- Captured gold for Dalhousie in the 200-metre butterfly and bronze in the 50-metre backstroke and 100-metre butterfly at this year's CIS championships in Montreal.

## Mooseheads playing waiting game until second round

## First team to advance.

Mooseheads likely to have nine days between games as they wait for next playoff series to begin



MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

As the first team to advance to the QMJHL quarter-finals, the Halifax Mooseheads have also earned the biggest break between games.

And while that's a blessing in some ways, as battle-scarred players rest their bumps and bruises, it's also a potential momentum-killer for a team that steamrolled the Moncton Wildcats with four wins in just five days.

The Mooseheads are expected to start the next round on the road on Friday, April 6, in all likelihood against the Quebec Remparts or the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada.

That means nine full days off.

"The biggest challenge is resting while at the same time staying sharp physically

and mentally," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "One of the biggest advantages of finishing that series in four is having the days to get ready and refuel. It's finding that line where you have that rest but at the same time staying ready physically and mentally."

The Mooseheads took Wednesday off to bask in the glow of a dominating first round that saw them outscore the Wildcats by a 23-8 margin.

They're back on the ice on Thursday and Friday for practice and then have off-ice team-building activities on Saturday, where the players will "be together and have fun," according to Ducharme.

Ducharme said he hasn't decided whether Sunday will be an off-day, consist of a video session, or involve more team-building. Then it's back to the rink on Monday for a week of heavy practice to gear up for Game 1.

"We'll just prepare like we did for Moncton," Ducharme said. "I think the main thing is our guys are really hungry and they're excited about the challenge. Hopefully we can start Game 1 (of the quarter-finals) with the same momentum we had against Moncton."

## QMJHL roundup

Six of eight QMJHL first-round series are over and all of them ended in sweeps.

Saint John (over Cape Breton), Shawinigan (over Rouyn-Noranda), Blainville-Boisbriand (over Gatineau), Rimouski (over Val-d'Or) and Baie-Comeau (over Victoriaville) completed four-game sweeps on Wednesday to

join Halifax in the quarter-finals.

Baie-Comeau, seeded 13th, pulled off a huge upset by sweeping fourth-seeded Victoriaville. All other teams advancing defeated lower seeds.

Quebec, with a 3-0 lead on Drummondville, can advance on Thursday, and Chicoutimi, up 3-1 on Bathurst, can advance on Friday.

METRO



Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme will be trying to keep his players on their toes over the next week or so as the Mooseheads prepare for the second round. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE





Canada's Marcus Haber reacts after Cuba's late goal on Monday in Nashville, Tenn.  
MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Confidence ahead of critical game

**CONCACAF.** Canada looking to advance to London Olympics

Canada is hoping for one more dramatic twist at an already surprising CONCACAF men's Olympic soccer qualifying tournament.

After a shock 2-0 win against the U.S. and a disappointing 1-1 draw with Cuba in group play, the Canadian under-23 team will

## Quoted

"Anyone can be beat. Everyone thought the U.S. would finish first in this tournament and they're out now."

Nana Attakora, Canada captain

need a monumental performance against Mexico in Saturday's semifinal to advance to the London Games.

And the team needs to look no further than its captain for inspiration.

Nana Attakora is a player

who has experienced success against Saturday's opponent, having led the Canadian U-20 team that defeated Mexico in 2009.

"They're humans just like us," Attakora said from Kansas City. "They'll make mis-

takes and we can't look at them like they can't be beat."

Canada wasn't expected to make it out of the group stage, let alone be one win away from London.

"It was a tough group — El Salvador, great team. U.S. obviously has a ton of great young players," Attakora said. "Getting out of the group has been an accomplishment. I think if we work hard, we've proven that anything can happen."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NHL

### Winnipeg Jets playoff hopes dealt blow

Ryan Callahan and Michael Del Zotto each had a goal and an assist as the New York Rangers dealt Winnipeg's slim playoff hopes another blow with a 4-2 victory Wednesday.

The Jets have five games remaining, all against conference opponents. They head out for a four-game road trip, starting in Carolina on Friday, and close out the regular season at home April 7 against Tampa.

The loss handed the Jets their first three-game losing streak at home this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## MLB

### Dodgers fans hopeful with Magic on their side

Magic Johnson is about to learn \$2 billion US only buys you so much. Now he'll need to bring the L.A. Dodgers the same success he brought the Lakers. News Johnson and his partners agreed to purchase the team sparked a groundswell of excited chatter and optimism around Los Angeles Wednesday, renewing hope the man who ran "Showtime" could restore lustre to the once-proud franchise. The amount Johnson and his partners are paying also gives the group the right to reel in future riches from TV and real estate associated with the Dodgers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MLB. Ichiro still big in Japan as Mariners top A's



Mariners right-fielder Ichiro Suzuki, right, celebrates with teammates in Tokyo on Wednesday. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Ichiro Suzuki gave his fans in Japan a performance to cheer about.

Suzuki had four hits in his return home. Dustin Ackley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 Wednesday night in baseball's season opener in Tokyo.

"It was very special to open in Japan," said Suzuki, who spent nine seasons in Osaka with the Orix Blue Wave. "I wanted to have fun and give the fans something at this special time and wanted to share a special moment with them."

The capacity crowd of 44,227 at Tokyo Dome gave Su-

zuki a standing ovation when he took his position in right field in the final inning.

MLB and the players' association are using the series to assist rebuilding in Japan following last year's earthquake and tsunami.

Felix Hernandez combined with two relievers on a six-hitter as MLB opened its season in Tokyo for the fourth time.

Seattle and Oakland complete their two-game series Thursday. The rest of the big-league teams start to get going April 4, when the renamed Miami Marlins open their new ballpark against the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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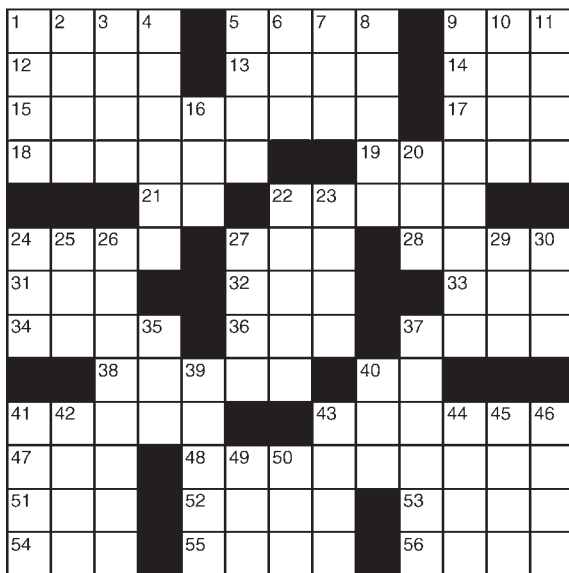
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## Crossword

### Across

- 1 Big bash  
5 Virtue's opposite  
9 Flop  
12 Japanese sashes  
13 Exotic berry  
14 Compass dir.  
15 With-drawing from office  
17 "Cool" amount of cash  
18 Ranking  
19 Part of Hispaniola  
21 Morning hour on a sundial  
22 "Psycho" setting  
24 Hospital furnishings  
27 Space  
28 Organization  
31 Anger  
32 Sailor's assent  
33 "I" strain?  
34 Tournament component  
36 Leno's network  
37 Wan  
38 Reflec-tion  
40 Pacino or Yankovic  
41 Tangy cuisine  
43 Ape  
47 Yoko of music  
48 "Ghost" co-star  
51 To the — degree  
52 Author Hunter  
53 Pronto, in the ER  
54 Family  
55 Look for  
56 Highland hats
- Down**  
1 Pantheon figures  
2 Help in a crime  
3 Peru's capital  
4 Unchanged



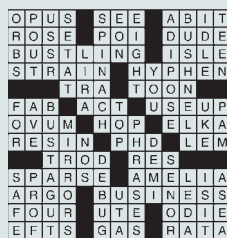
- 5 Cisterns  
6 Here (Fr.)  
7 Has the skill set  
8 Square dance group  
9 Cecil B. and Agnes  
10 One  
11 Sandwich shop  
16 Formal wear  
20 NRC predecessor  
22 Perhaps  
23 Oil cartel  
24 Humongous  
25 Geological time  
26 Wicker-covered bottle  
27 Group of hoods  
29 "Yecch!"  
30 Lad

- 35 Big Aussie bird  
37 Not quite  
39 South American range  
40 Intention  
41 Hit on the head  
42 Oppositionist  
43 Kitchen fixture  
44 Greek vowel  
45 Composer Khachaturian  
46 Profits  
49 Previous night  
50 West of Holly wood

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca



### Yesterday's answer



## Sudoku



### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

### Yesterday's answer



## Send a kiss

- **a who.** I always thought love was about who can make you smile, who can make you laugh when you don't want to laugh, who can make you cry and who can make you do things for them you may not want to do at the moment. guessing i was wrong? jenny
- **Campbell Soup.** You must be used to me crying, you know my heart can't take no more i won't keep running back to you. thinking about my strength to finally get up and leave seems like i finally got my head on straight. can't wait to wake up everyday without you on my brain.. oh well proud to say i will never make that same mistake!! No Name Soup
- **Fall-apart-ers.** Here's to all the fall-a-parters, Jesus loves you! Blessings for everyone! Never too late?
- **All lies.** Why didn't i listen to my heart when he had me guessing from the start, more and more i wonder why do i still want her after all the love i gave her but it wasn't mutual so whatever then. And everytime the phone rings i wish it was your call, but that won't happen. From gullible

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Variable

**Friday**

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## Horoscope

### ♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20.

Someone you meet will tell you something that may not mean much to you now, but it could be used to your benefit later on.

### ♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

You will talk your way out of trouble today but how did you get into this position in the first place?

### ♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20.

You need to convince someone that you know what you are talking about and that you are serious about your aims.

### ♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22.

You will have to do something you don't want to do, simply because someone else has the power to make you. Do it with a smile.

### ♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

With the Sun, your ruler, at odds with Pluto today, chances are you will have to do a lot of explaining.

### ♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22.

People who have an inflated sense of their own importance are often easy to influence and you can use that fact to your advantage today.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. It appears that someone has a grudge against you and you don't have the faintest idea why. The only way to find out is to ask.

### ♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.

Someone in authority will give you a hard time today and you may be tempted to hit back at him or her in some way. Don't!

### ♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21.

Someone is jealous of the attention you have been getting and would like nothing better than to see you take a fall.

### ♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20.

You don't have to exert yourself to any great extent today. You just have to persuade others to do things for you. Easy.

### ♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb. 18.

Don't give someone the impression that you agree with what they say when, secretly, you disagree.

### ♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20.

The whole idea of life is to try new things and that, inevitably, means making mistakes. Go out and make some more. **SALLY BROMPTON**



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"Ah, I think they're a size six and a half."

Tony

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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